

NEWSNOTES



Friday 11th November 2016 10 Cheshvan 5777 Parashat Lech-Lecha

Shabbat begins tonight at 3.58 p.m. and ends tomorrow evening at 5.08 pm

Dates for your diary

Please check the calendar section of the school website for more detailed information.

14th – 18th November

Anti-bullying week

17th November

'Power of One' Anti-bullying workshops

18th November

Children In Need

Wednesday 16th November

Year 3 assembly 9.10 - **postponed due to Drama Production.**

Wednesday 23rd November

Year 2 assembly 9.10 (parents invited)

Chanukah celebrations/presentations

Thursday 15th December

9.30 Years 1 & 2 (Year 1 & 2 parents invited)

Tuesday 20th December

9.30 Years 3 - 6 (Years 3 - 6 parents invited)

Wednesday 21st December

9.30 EYFS (N and Rec parents invited)

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents,

As part of my role in improving standards at Simon Marks, I have been looking at the quality of work in books and I am pleased to confirm that the majority of pupils are producing some excellent work.

Work continues to be of a high standard, and some pupils are showing pride in their accuracy and presentation.

The teachers are planning engaging lessons, and consequently the pupils are showing a real thirst for learning.

I am becoming increasingly more confident that we should receive a very favourable

report when we are inspected by the local authority and HMI this term.

I am also investing in a new supply of books for each class and this will ensure that pupils will continue to enjoy reading a range of genre, and I am particularly keen to increase the fluency skills of all pupils.

I am very interested to utilise the skills of parents at Simon Marks, and should you wish to volunteer, then please obtain a form from the office, and your application will be given careful consideration.

Thank you for your continued support

Gareth Thomas
Interim Headteacher

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day is on Sunday 13th November and today was Armistice Day. To show support for this we will have held a two minute silence today.

Punctuality

Please could we remind you that school starts at 8.55 and that all children should be in the playground ready to go into class then. Thank you for the parents who are prompt every day.

Year 4 & 5 trip to Shabbat UK

On Tuesday morning Year 4 & 5 went to the Lee valley Athletics Centre with hundreds of other primary school children to join in a fantastic Kabbalat Shannat UK event.

The interactive concert experience was run by Rabbi Marc Levene from Hampstead Garden Suburb Synagogue, and Rabbi Bazak from Seed was once again be creating the Shabbat experience through song.

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It might seem strange to hold “Kabbalat ShabbatUK”, on a Tuesday but the Chief Rabbi believed that setting it at this earlier time would not only provide the most incredible curtain-raiser for the days leading up to ShabbatUK but also that it would ignite the enthusiasm of 1500 children.



P.E. Kits

Please could all parents ensure that children have a full P.E. kit in school with navy blue shorts and a white t-shirt. Jogging bottoms and sweatshirts can be used for outdoor P.E. during the colder winter months, but these must also be navy blue. Coloured t-shirts/shorts are not acceptable.

Book Fair

The Book Fair has arrived at school and will be open on Mon 14th – Wed 16th after school in the dining hall. Parents and children are welcome to browse and purchase books on

these days and children will also have the opportunity to visit the book fair during the day. We will also open the fair for parents on Monday 14th from 3p.m. to allow parents to browse in peace!

Simon Marks will receive commission on all sales in the form of books, so it is a good way of supporting the school but also to buy books and gifts for Chanukah and birthdays.

If you are unable to come to the book fair, and would like books, please fill in the order form at the back of the leaflet.

Year 6 Assembly

We'd like to congratulate Year 6 for delivering such an informative and entertaining assembly this Wednesday. Amber's evaluation of the morning is as follows:-

'What went well was that mainly we managed to learn the song in time and sing it correctly and also that the volcano erupted perfectly!

What could have been better in our assembly in my opinion is that we could have all said our parts a little clearer and perhaps learn them off by heart.

I think the audience liked the 'Lava Song' and definitely the volcano - my personal part of the assembly was the erupting volcano (and that I got to do it!)

In my opinion, the year 6 assembly was an enjoyable and a great experience.'

Amber Parmar



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Children In Need

Next week on Friday 18th November, we will be celebrating Children In Need. Children will be allowed to come to school in mufti (non-school uniform) on that day, and we are asking children to come wearing a funny hat. This can be a hat that they have decorated themselves. We are requesting a £1.00 donation for the Children In Need charity. Money will be collected at the school gate.

Power of One – Anti-Bullying workshops

On Thursday 17th November children from Reception to Year 6 will be taking part in Anti-bullying workshops. Please remember to make your £3.00 payment through Parent Pay.

Thought for the Week - Parashat Lech Lecha

Abraham's father was not a good man; he used to sell idols to people so they could pray to them. One day his father asked him to look after the shop of idols and at that point Abraham realised that they had no power whatsoever; they could not possibly be G-d and with that he destroyed all the idols but one.

On his return his father was horrified to see the state of the idols and asked Abraham to explain. Abraham proceeded to tell his father that while he was feeding the idols, they were so greedy they began to fight with each other and the strongest one won. "That is impossible!" exclaimed his father, "Idols don't do a thing." "Precisely" said Abraham.

Abraham found and believed in G-d, who did not want Abraham to live with his father who serves idols, and said to him "**Lech Lecha**" (go away) from your father's land, go to the land I will show you. (The land of Canaan known now as Eretz Yisrael). Abraham's devotion to Hashem was so great he did not ask him which land; he just followed G-d's instruction. Hashem promised to make Abraham the head of a great nation and said

that there would be as many as there are stars in the sky.

What we learn from this

Are there times when it is right to tell a white lie. When?

Shabbat Shalom.

Achievements

Rec:

Malaika - for her fantastic writing this week.

Taylan - for trying his best in all aspects of learning.

Year 1:

Eli'Ora – for being a fantastic role model

Elijah – for excellent contributions in class

Year 2:

Dov – For working incredibly hard on his non-chronological report plan about wolves

Odelia – For outstanding behaviour and amazing effort in all her classwork

Year 3:

Nandi - for always having a positive attitude towards her learning.

Isabella – for her excellent behaviour and hard work in all subjects.

Year 4:

Isabelle – For being positive and following 'Green' expectations

Esli – For giving his best in all aspects of his learning, especially in Maths

Year 5:

Shiloh – For always sharing his wonderful ideas and participating in class discussions.

Tia – For always having a positive attitude towards any challenges.

Year 6:

Jasmine – for an excellent evaluation of her class assembly

Whole class - for green points. The target was 412 and they doubled it.

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This week we would also like to celebrate the work of a pupil in Year 5. Miss Gough has chosen Maytal for her writing in Literacy. Students were asked to retell a part of the Grimm Tale of Little Red Riding Hood from the perspective of a character in the story. Maytal chose to write from the perspective of the wolf and his encounter with Little Red Riding Hood. Fantastic use of adjectives and time connectives in your writing, Maytal!

After months of roaming in the deadly woods I met a little girl called ^{in a red cape} Little Red Riding Hood on her way to her grandma's house. She looked very juicy-perfect for a carnivorous wolf like me. But how was I going to get her into my belly? Then a perfect plan popped into my head. It was cruel, devious, it was absolutely perfect! I walked over to her with a creepily cheeky ^{smile} grin on my face. "Hello dear!" I said in my sweet voice. "Hello." she replied. "What's your name?" I asked her. "They call me Little Red Riding Hood." "Well, Little Red Riding Hood," I said to her. "There are some flowers right there." I told her as I looked over my shoulder pointing behind me with my razor sharp claws. "Thank you!" she said smiling at me. "No problem at all!" I said. "Now hurry on!" I said getting slightly impatient. As she went off skipping happily in the other direction. Then I went off ~~to~~ to her grandma's house.

Where are you off to? I asked her. My grandma's she said pointing towards the small house a few metres away.